

4 collecting a set of shipping data for a contract entered into between the buyer and
5 seller resulting from the auction;
6 soliciting bids for shipping services required by the contract;
7 receiving a set of shipping bids; and
8 selecting a bid from the set of bids according to a predetermined set of bid
9 evaluation criteria.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the facilitating step of includes the step
2 of:
3 facilitating a business-to-business auction on the portal.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 4:
2 wherein the collecting step includes the step of collecting a contract
3 consummation event; and
4 further comprising the step of billing an auction services fee upon occurrence of
5 the event.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein:
2 the collecting step includes the step of collecting a bidding-period; and
3 the receiving step further comprising the step of receiving a set of shipping bids
4 within the bidding-period.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 4:
2 wherein the shipping data is organized into a set of shipping fields;

3 wherein the collecting step includes the step of collecting additional sets of
4 shipping data corresponding to additional contracts;
5 further comprising the step of grouping together those contracts having equivalent
6 shipping data within at least one of the shipping fields; and
7 wherein the soliciting step includes the step of soliciting bids for providing
8 shipping services for the group of contracts.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the soliciting step of includes the step
2 of:
3 soliciting bids for shipping services from a plurality of shippers and shipping
4 brokers.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the soliciting step of includes the step
2 of:
3 displaying a predetermined set of shipping data on an internet exchange portal
4 website accessible to shippers and shipping brokers.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the facilitating step of includes the step
2 of:
3 collecting the predetermined set of bid evaluation criteria from the seller.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the selecting step of includes the steps
2 of:
3 forwarding the bids onto the seller; and

4 receiving a bid selection from the seller.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the selecting step of includes the steps

2 of:

3 selecting a bid with a lowest shipping price.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the selecting step of includes the steps

2 of:

3 selecting a default shipper if none of the bids conform to the predetermined set of
4 bid evaluation criteria.

1 15. (Original) A method for transactional flows within an internet exchange portal,

2 comprising the steps of:

3 soliciting unused capacity for providing shipping services to buyers and sellers

4 who participate in auctions facilitated by the portal from shippers; and

5 receiving a set of bids from the buyers and sellers for the unused capacity.

1 16. (Original) A computer-usable medium embodying computer program code for

2 causing a computer to align transactional flows within an internet exchange portal,

3 comprising the steps of:

4 facilitating an auction on the portal between a buyer and a seller;

5 collecting a set of shipping data for a contract entered into between the buyer and

6 seller resulting from the auction;

7 soliciting bids for shipping services required by the contract;

8 receiving a set of shipping bids; and
9 selecting a bid from the set of bids according to a predetermined set of bid
10 evaluation criteria.

1 17. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the facilitating step
2 of includes the step of:
3 facilitating a business-to-business auction on the portal.

1 18. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16:
2 wherein the collecting step includes the step of collecting a contract
3 consummation event; and
4 further comprising the step of billing an auction services fee upon occurrence of
5 the event.

1 19. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein:
2 the collecting step includes the step of collecting a bidding-period; and
3 the receiving step further comprising the step of receiving a set of shipping bids
4 within the bidding-period.

1 20. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16:
2 wherein the shipping data is organized into a set of shipping fields;
3 wherein the collecting step includes the step of collecting additional sets of
4 shipping data corresponding to additional contracts;

5 further comprising the step of grouping together those contracts having equivalent
6 shipping data within at least one of the shipping fields; and
7 wherein the soliciting step includes the step of soliciting bids for providing
8 shipping services for the group of contracts.

1 21. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the soliciting step of
2 includes the step of:
3 soliciting bids for shipping services from a plurality of shippers and shipping
4 brokers.

1 22. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the soliciting step of
2 includes the step of:
3 displaying a predetermined set of shipping data on an internet exchange portal
4 website accessible to shippers and shipping brokers.

1 23. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the facilitating step
2 of includes the step of:
3 collecting the predetermined set of bid evaluation criteria from the seller.

1 24. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the selecting step of
2 includes the steps of:
3 forwarding the bids onto the seller; and
4 receiving a bid selection from the seller.

1 25. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the selecting step of
2 includes the steps of:
3 selecting a bid with a lowest shipping price.

1 26. (Original) The computer-usable medium of claim 16 wherein the selecting step of
2 includes the steps of:
3 selecting a default shipper if none of the bids conform to the predetermined set of
4 bid evaluation criteria.